

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13-19 and 23-27 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 13 and 24 are currently amended. Claims 4 and 5 are original. Claims 2-3, 7-8, 10-11, 13-19, 23-25 and 26 were previously presented. Claims 1 and 13 are independent. Claim 27 is new. No new matter is added. Claim 23 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-5, 7, 10, 11, 13-18 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,831,512, "Nakai") in view of Hershey (U.S. Patent No. 5,544,077, "Hershey"). Claims 8 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakai in view of Hershey and further in view of Baker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,073,089, "Baker").

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that the Examiner indicated that claims 23, 24 and 26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant adds new claim 27 to recite the limitations of claim 26 in independent form including all the limitations of previous base claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner.

Applicant amends independent claims 1 and 13 to include the limitations of now canceled claim 23. Applicant amends dependent claim 24 to correctly depend from independent claim 1. Thus, Applicant requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections of amended independent claims 1 and 13. Claims 2-5, 7, 10, 11 and 25 depend on amended independent claims 1 and add further limitation thereto, and claims 14-18 depend on amended independent claim 13 and add further limitation thereto. Therefore, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections of these claims, too. Claims 8 and 19 depend on amended independent claims 1 and 13, respectively, and add further limitation thereto. Therefore, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections of these claims too.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. CDPC-P01-004 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: November 27, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Edward J. Kelly

Registration No.: 38,936

ROPES & GRAY LLP

One International Place

Boston, Massachusetts 02110-2624

(617) 951-7000

(617) 951-7050 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant